

11-1-1965

Heat Your House for Less - Is There a "May Blossom" in Your Home This Winter? - Part II

Howard Bloom

Follow this and additional works at: <https://research.library.kutztown.edu/greenrevolution>

Recommended Citation

Bloom, Howard (1965) "Heat Your House for Less - Is There a "May Blossom" in Your Home This Winter? - Part II," *Green Revolution*: Vol. 3 : Iss. 11 , Article 20.

Available at: <https://research.library.kutztown.edu/greenrevolution/vol3/iss11/20>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by Research Commons at Kutztown University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Green Revolution by an authorized editor of Research Commons at Kutztown University. For more information, please contact czerny@kutztown.edu.

Heat Your House For Less—

Is There A "May Blossom" In Your Home This Winter?

By Howard Bloom
Cabot, Vt.

Part II

I myself have what is known as a "chunk stove." Chunk perhaps because of their shape, but more likely because the entire top swings aside to permit putting in of large chunks of wood. This is particularly desirable because so often knotty chunks of maple, birch or elm are impossible to split; they would be wasted otherwise, and they are especially valuable because, once put in the stove, and the drafts shut down, the stove will go all night.

My chunk stove is a May Blossom No. 27, made by the Buffalo Stove Co. (of New York, presumably), I guess around the turn of the century, or earlier. I got it for a ridiculously low price, and I wouldn't sell it for ten times the amount. It's known as a circulating heater; that is, the flame comes up one side of the firebox and down the other. With the drafts wide open, it pours out so much heat that I'm a bit alarmed to let it go "all out," and usually operate it at half-draft. Before retiring, I half-fill it with chunks of Vermont maple and birch, turn the drafts down, and wake up next morning to a firebox full of glowing coals.

This stove heats our "living part" of our old farmhouse, an ell-shaped room made by removing several inside walls. It comprises our kitchen and living room, and is approximately 500 sq. ft. in area. There is no insulation in the outside walls or the roof, but the stove comfortably heats this area in the coldest of weather (we've had subzero temperatures for weeks on end, and 30 to 40 below at least once or twice a year). In addition, the heat spreads enough to take the chill off the front bedroom and the two upstairs rooms.

By the way, we have a fireplace, priceless to us for the psychological warmth it bestows, but it must be admitted that it's very inefficient and wasteful to operate. But we wouldn't be without it, and we had it built three years before we got around to installing an inside bathroom. So much for our value system.

We have another gem in the front bedroom, a stove called the "Tropic Crawford," another of my trading "coups." It was even more of a bargain than the "May Blossom," as it is quite a lot more attractive. "May" is built like, and looks like, an iron box, but the "Crawford" is a graceful, elegant lady, although an equally effective heater. We've only used it once, however, and have it strictly as a standby heater in the event of illness or the advent of a wintertime "down-country" guest.

As to fuel consumption: I've been at home for the past several winters, and have therefore had the stove (and fireplace) going more than if I'd been working out and hence had the stoves banked during the day. I estimate we burn about five cords of wood a season. We burn an extra cord if we have it, but five cords will do if necessary.

Of course a family with children, particularly infants, might use more, though I've seen babies at friends crawling around on the floor at a temperature which city people would find "chilly."

To sum up, good wood-burning stoves (and furnaces) should be available at very reasonable sums. They are much less bother than one might think, and are simple to maintain and operate. They give generous quantities of heat, heat felt as a personable, present live warmth. There are few more satisfying experiences than coming in out of the damp and chill, removing one's wet things, and sitting down before a cheerful fire radiating out from a wood stove or fireplace.

Even though the cost has risen considerably of late, and assuming one has to buy all one's firewood, I estimate one ought to be able to heat for from \$50 to \$150 a year, which is much cheaper than any other kind of fuel expenditure. And if the homesteader has a woodlot of any extent (the Agriculture Department says a ten-acre woodlot will supply the average farm home with enough fuel to heat throughout the year), and is physically able to get his own wood, it will make the fuel bill practically nil. Getting in the wood supply is, of course, one of those chores which can be done cooperatively; it's also helpful to have several growing boys, plus a cordwood saw.

[We are sorry credit to Mr. Bloom was omitted from Part I of this article.—Ed.]

Book Gets Enthusiastic Reception

Our 200 page book by your editor and a dozen collaborators is being commented on in several journals. It presents a panorama of School of Living ideas in the challenging story of a real young couple as they work out better ways of living.

The concepts of libertarian economics which Ron and Laura Baker probed as they faced buying property has been highlighted in page reviews in the *May Innovator* (Box 34718, Los Angeles), *The Henry George News* (50 E. 69th St., New York City), *The Indian Libertarian* (Bombay, India), and *Minus One*, No. 9 (2 Orsett St., London W2, England).

In September *Lei's Live* (1133 N. Vermont, Los Angeles), Thomas Gaines said, "Utter frankness runs through all four sections of the book," and he then very ably summarized them. A review by Beatrice Trum Hunter has been accepted by *Health Federation Bulletin*, and one by R. J. Cheatham has gone to *Herald of Health*. The *Rural Life Mailbox* (Manchester College, North Manchester, Ind.) and *Humanist World Digest* (1011 Heinz Ave., Berkeley, Calif.) carried brief reviews. Our book also appears on the lists of the Hatch Loan Library (St. Johnsbury, Vt.), Natural Youth Resources, Inc. (Los Banos, Calif.), and Family Life Institute (Los Angeles).

An enthusiastic reviewer of *Go Ahead and Live!* is Mrs. Dorothy Samuel's Review

Chance For Reader To Win \$25 Award

A \$25 cash award is being offered to the person submitting the best name for the new Vegetarian Health Resort scheduled to open in January, 1966, in Mexico. Entries should be mailed before Dec. 1, 1965 to David Stry, Director, Cerritos-5A, Cuernavaca, Mexico. Participants should know that the resort will have excellent climate, a wide selection of tropical fruits, up-to-the-minute guest accommodations, orchards, organic gardens, and complete programming for the maintenance of health and enjoyment of the "good life." Also, a retirement community for health-minded people will be developed as part of the project.

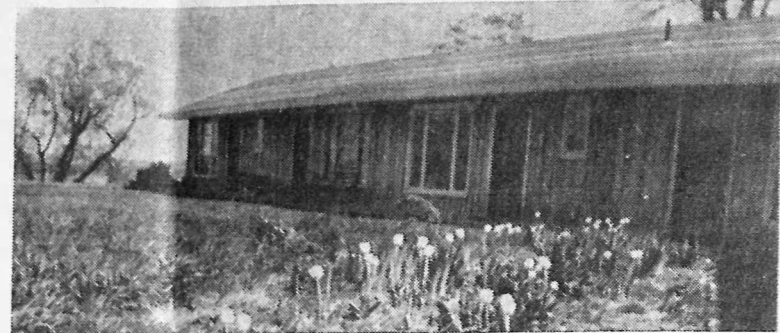
Choice Land Available in Michigan

Above the lovely resort town of Traverse City, near Sutton's Bay, Mich., is Candle Lights Crafts, a small weaving shop of Mrs. Joy Valsko and household. This is in the Cherry Center of the world; housed in a multiple, motel-like building on the clean, natural shore of Lake Michigan.

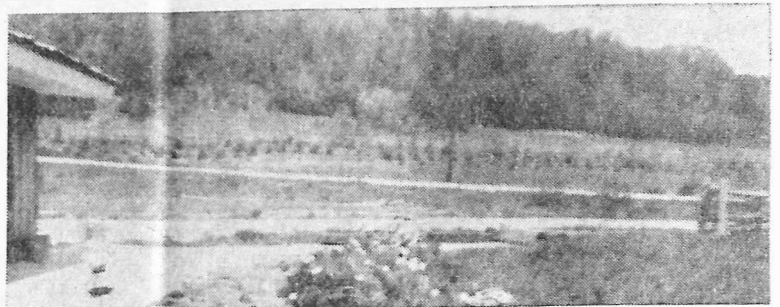
Here eleven School of Living adults and five children spent a rewarding weekend Aug. 22-23. We enjoyed the gorgeous scenery, the ever-changing sky and water at hand, the walks in the woods and orchards, the generous hospitality and becoming better acquainted. Don Abbott stirred our thinking about functioning as an individual, Mildred Loomis led a long discussion on the Self and Self Needs, a health group brought in pot-luck supper, Barney McCaffrey sang, we discussed further School of Living work in this area, tried to pitch a new-fangled tent, and heard the closing symphony of the summer students at the famous Interlochen Music camp! Monday we toured the successful homestead of Darrel and Margaret Cole near Bear Lake.

Land Available

Mrs. Valsko's land is part of the original 500 acre family homestead, on which her father planted the first apple and cherry orchards in the area. Reluctant to sell the land for ordinary development, Mrs. Valsko is making some 250 acres available for homesteaders, and/or homesteading community with the use of the building on cooperative ar-



WING OF Candle Lights Crafts building (one-third of structure when it is completed.)



LOOKING into the hills from Candle Lights terrace.

rangements. On a hillside in an old orchard, with gorgeous view of the lake, is land available in one to five acre plots for as little as \$100 an acre. These have lake (Traverse Bay) access, with a public beach less than a mile away. Other acres on a road and with a building, are higher, on a lease arrangement, with lease money applied on any later sale. Her hope is that a group would be able to use the build-

ing for some cooperative industry for income.

Mrs. Valsko is looking for "help" in continuing her goals in a rural setting. Her hope is to find suitable collaborators so that she need not accept an offer for sale and conventional development of her property. This is too good to miss. Whoever is interested please write Mrs. Joy Valsko at once, 516 W. 7th St., Traverse City, Mich.

thy Samuel, a teacher at St. Paul's College, Lawrenceville, Va., and a writer of perceptive articles on education and modern problems. Besides a letter about the book to *Organic Gardening*, she has submitted four reviews, similar to the following, to important journals (acceptance was promptly forthcoming from *The Journal of Human Relations*, Central State College, Wilberforce, Ohio).

Dorothy Samuel's Review

Go Ahead and Live! represents a distinctly healthy approach to the problems of living as a responsible and principled human being in today's world. Mrs. Loomis has long pioneered in the Borsodi tradition of life in harmony with ecological principles of nature. At her School of Living in Brookville, Ohio, Mrs. Loomis and her husband practice a kind of reverential dominion over the soil and animal life, open their acres for experiments in human community, and turn out magazines and pamphlets of encouragement and practical advice for those whose spiritual foundations are threatened by mass living in automated social groups.

This book is an attempt to put into simple, easy-to-read form the proof of Mrs. Loomis' faith in ordinary human beings. She follows the transformation of a young couple in no way remarkable for talent, education or family advantages. Their brief but moving reports on the barrenness and pettiness of a life without direction or spiritual strength are followed by the correspondence and conversations they had with people who had found satisfaction and purpose. Some of these people are "experts" — in psychology, nutrition, economics, construction; some are relatively unknown beyond the School of Living—happy homesteaders and creative parents. Although their view-

THANKS

Dear Mr. Borsodi:

Thank you very much for permission to reprint material from *This Ugly Civilization*. Let me add that I am entirely sympathetic with your approach to life, and wish you even greater success.—John Tipple, Professor of History, California State College, Los Angeles, Calif.

points vary, they share a faith in the spirit of man and that spirit's ability to transcend difficulties and mold the immediate world about it.

Despite the simple style and language, there is no simplification of the challenges presented by our over-organized civilization. The exploitation of soil, man and substance is clearly set forth, perhaps more devastatingly than in the usual social commentary literature. What is different is the ringing affirmation that man need not be overwhelmed by the appearance of evil triumphant.

The pseudonymous couple of *Go Ahead and Live!* are first helped to take a positive and respectful attitude toward each other as human beings, and then to consider together the elementary problems of health, food, and shortly, a baby. Without the satisfactions and self-respect of this somewhat primitive level of happiness, however, they could hardly have faced up to life's larger problems honestly. To find that one is working at a job scarcely worth doing, shot through with duplicity and exploitation, is hardly a unique experience. To find that a credit economy makes a delusion of apparent prosperity is equally common. To have the moral courage to examine such situations, search for the underlying causes in men and man, and courageously set about building an alternative way of life is all too unusual.

Many readers may not be drawn to the particular manner in which the Ron and Laura of the book begin to opt out of the exploitive society and into a self-reliant, self-determined pattern. All, however, should find much that is provocative in the discussions of the various degrees of homesteading by which families can build more closely to the earth which nourishes them and the eternal rhythms which animate them.

As with many School of Living people, Ron and Laura settle for a modified form of intentional community. This is one of the best descriptions of the book, for it avoids the dogmatism usually associated with communitarian literature. The blend of personal freedom and shared searching which the young couple find in Cuyahoga

Heights represents a cooperative relationship which could surely instruct people in quite unintentional communities. And the outline of a schooling securely based on the participation and responsibility of all the community adults is Paul Goodman without his fury and the compulsion to desecralize.

Persons interested in education for living and in educating others for living will find many provocative suggestions in *Go Ahead and Live!* The bibliographies at the conclusion of each chapter facilitate easy location of more detailed information on specific topics. The final chapter outlines Mrs. Loomis' vision of a network of cooperating schools of living by which creative people might cooperate for their own and society's health.

* * *

Go Ahead and Live! is \$4.15 from The School of Living, Brookville, Ohio. Order your copy now. Send it as a Christmas gift to your young friends, to teachers, ministers and editors.

Labor Day, cont'd

and winter fuel. Some worked inside the attic, cleaning and handing out tools, etc. Still others helped dig away the ground and rocks to enlarge the patio area at the back, and, following a wise suggestion, hauled the wheelbarrow loads right through the mill to the front door on the second floor and dumped down to fill up the bad holes below. The approach is now more sightly and eventually this area will be walled, for a kitchen garden.

The back porch was cleaned and fuel stacked there for winter. The shop part of the carriage shed was cleaned out. The windows in the fireplace room were made airtight and the room plastered.

The weather cooperated beautifully! For two nights we could look out and see the stars! Late Monday afternoon, the men announced that the roof was complete, except for the spouting (which has since been put on).

Twenty-six people were there full time; 26 more were present part of the time. We all felt we had a wonderful weekend together, achieving these major repairs!

WRITE TO ME if you are troubled or heavy laden. Learn of Christ for he is meek and lowly of heart and he will bring comfort to your mind and soul. Write to me all your troubles and worries. No advice given unless requested. List of friendly Christian people, 75c. Basic Christian, 1837 Harri-man, Bend, Oregon.

living the good life

by Scott & Helen Nearing

Read details about their organic gardening, house and greenhouse building on a New England homestead farm. Clothbound Photos 210 pages \$3.50 FOREST FARM, HARBORSIDE, MAINE